



Toothpick Star

#320

AGE GROUP



HOW DO I SET UP & PLAY?

Curiosity Spark - Can you make the star open if it absorbs water?

- Bend the 5 toothpicks in half but do not break them completely (so not quite a full snap apart - you still want one toothpick).
- Put the 5 broken toothpicks in a circle on the plate with the broken points touching one another to form a closed star shape.
- Use the dropper to draw up some water from the cup then squeeze out a few drops of water into the middle.
- The toothpicks will slowly start to move and straighten as the water causes the wood to swell and the toothpicks then push against each other to form an open star !

EXTENDING LEARNING SPARKS

- What other objects absorb water? Do some testing and experiments with different materials and a water tub.
- Tape a sheet of contact paper to a table with the sticky side out and provide toothpicks for children to make their own star and other shapes.

WHAT MATERIALS DO I NEED?

- 5 Toothpicks (coloured or natural is fine)
- A plate to catch water (flat is best)
- A medicine dropper, syringe, straw or pipette
- Glass of water



Exploring & using my senses



Challenging my fine motor muscles